

AN ESSAY OF EXTENDED DEFINITION

What is Love?

Introduction (Leads reader into the essay by example. Note that it is divided into two paragraphs because of the natural shift)

Thesis statement (Uses classification to define the subject)

Paragraph One (Outlines the first category using example to define)

Paragraph Two (Continues with category one)

Everybody has felt it at one time or another, be it for a person, pet, or even a non-living object. That feeling is love. Love is felt in different intensities; it may consume your whole being, or perhaps it's just a little crush. Some people search for what seem their whole lifetimes for love, whereas others may seem to fall in and out of love on a regular basis. Of course, here we are talking about people. We can love many things, but the love between two people is unique and special.

Love is rarely defined because everyone experiences it differently. What one person thinks is love, another may think is infatuation or vice versa. How does one know he or she is in love? How is it possible to distinguish between the love of romance and the love shared between friends? In order to understand love, we need to first understand the two major types of love: romantic love and friendship love.

People often define romantic love based on its difference from friendship love. Would you kiss your friend? Perhaps, but it is not necessarily the *things* you do with your romantic partner that makes your love romantic. Romantic love is often confused with infatuation because it is so all-consuming. Romantic lovers are usually on each other's minds. A person may make decisions based on his or her romantic partner, such as whether or not to move to a different province for a job and leave his or her partner behind. People make large life decisions based on their romantic partners because they can't imagine life without those people. Romantic love guides a person's mind and can sometimes cloud it as to what the right decision may be. After all, romantic love can be extremely selfless.

The famous playwright, William Shakespeare, one of the greatest advocates for romantic love, alludes to romantic love as being like drunkenness in his play *The Tempest*. Like too much alcohol or happy drugs, romantic love takes over all senses in a person, and somewhat changes his or her outlook. A person in love romantically is often said to have a "perma-smile" and is difficult to make unhappy. It is no wonder that most people seek out romantic love, rather than be content with the simple love shared between friends.

Paragraph Three
(Introduces the second
category for definition.
Note the transition from
P2 to P3)

The love of friendship is a milder type of love, as it does not consume a person's every waking moment with thoughts of the other person. Friendship love can often turn into romantic love, as it has many times throughout history, but the birth of romantic love between friends will often kill the love of friendship. In other words, friends who become romantic lovers rarely can go back to being "just friends". Why is it that romantic love is so overpowering? The love of friendship can be very strong, but it is the emotional intensity of romantic love that forever changes the simplicity of the love between friends.

Paragraph Four
(Continues with category
two. Compares/Contrasts
the two categories)

Friendship love does not have all the same guidelines that romantic love seems to have. Each friend couple may have a unique kind of love between each other. Girlfriends may have a different friendship love for each other than a male and female friend pair may have. The same goes for two male friends. Because of societal guidelines that have been in place for years, male-female friends may undergo a lot of pressure from other friends and family to turn their friendship love into romantic love. There is a line that friends may cross over, and to know that line is to know the difference between romantic love and friendship love.

Paragraph Five
(Continues with category
two. Offers a clear
definition)

Friendship love is best described as a warm feeling between people. A person naturally wants to be around her friend, as friends like to do things together. If your friend gets hurt, you want to help him; if your friend is angry, you get angry along with her. Friends who love each other want to make each other happy; they want to be there as confidants, cathartic outlets, and company. Friendship love is often compared to the love between siblings. In many cases, a sibling is just as good a friend as any. Society will not accept romantic love between relatives, but friendship love is encouraged and is a lovely thing to see when it does happen.

Conclusion (Asks a
question; prompts reader
to think)

So now that we can see the difference between romantic love and friendship love, do we understand love better? Perhaps not. Everybody experiences love in a different way and may not agree with the definitions offered here. In the end, it doesn't matter whether or not your kind of love fits into any category. Love is personal, and the important thing is that it makes people feel good. When people love each other, there is no room for hate.